

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRELAND

NOVEMBER 14-15

REF: PARIS 26505

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO SUBJECTS MENTIONED IN
REFTEL, FRENCH INTEND TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
RELATIONS DURING PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO DUBLIN.
END SUMMARY.

2. DUFOURCQ (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE)
RECENTLY CONFIRMED TO US THAT FRENCH PRIME MINISTER
CHIRAC AND FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES PLAN TO DISCUSS WITH THE
IRISH THE EC SUMMIT, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
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CONFRONTING THE EC, AND FRANCE'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY

CONFERENCE (REFTEL). MOREOVER, FRENCH INTEND TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO ENCOURAGING BROADENED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND IRELAND, LARGELY IN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AREAS BUT ALSO WITH SOME CULTURAL CONTENT. OTHER FRENCH OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTEDLY HAVE SAID THAT FRANCE IS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH IRELAND BOTH IN THE EXPLOITATION OF ZINC AND LEAD DEPOSITS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN IRELAND, AND ALSO IN OFFSHORE OIL PROSPECTING IN THE IRISH SEA. PRESUMABLY, THESE ISSUES -- AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF MUTTON EXPORTS BY IRELAND TO FRANCE -- ARE LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE CHIRAC VISIT.

3. CHIRAC'S VISIT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME (IRISH INVITATION WAS FIRST EXTENDED TO CHIRAC WHILE HE WAS POMPIDOU'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ACCORDING TO DUFOURCQ) AND MARKS FIRST TIME THAT FRENCH FIFTH REPUBLIC PRIME MINISTER HAS VISITED DUBLIN. VISIT COMPLETES PROGRAM OF BILATERAL MEETINGS BY CHIRAC AND/OR GISCARD WITH ALL EC NATIONAL LEADERS. DUFOURCQ SAID THAT THE FRENCH EXPECTED NOTHING MONUMENTAL TO COME OUT OF THE VISIT. THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH SIMPLE REINFORCEMENT OF THE FRANCO-IRISH RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC AREAS.
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